(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government proposes to revise the NELP or to impose a cess on the windfall profits made by the private oil companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Increase in crude oil prices may not permit windfall profits since cost of Exploration and Production (E&P) operations has also increased. There would also be higher royalty and corporate tax pay outs by the oil companies. Further, crude oil prices have shown a declining trend since August, 2008.

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. Global crude prices were much below the present global crude prices at the time of adoption of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) in 2000. As per BP Statistics 2008, Brent Crude oil price was US $ 28.5 per barrel in 2000 and US $ 72.39 per barrel in 2007. In December 2008, the crude oil prices are hovering around US $ 40 per barrel.

A High Powered Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri B.K. Chaturvedi, Member, Planning Commission was set up to examine the financial position of oil Companies. Dr. Saumitra Chaudhuri, Member, Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council and Dr. Arvind Virmani, Chief Economic Advisor Government of India were the other members of the Committee. The High Power Committee has given recommendations on various issues including windfall profits. The recommendations of the Committee are being examined.

Petro scenario in North-East

2432. SHRI KHEKIHO ZHIMOMI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of availability of petroleum and natural gas in each of the eight States in the North East India, State-wise;

(b) the details of extraction of petroleum and natural gas in all the said States, State-wise;

(c) the details of refineries and other such plants in all the said States, State-wise; and

(d) the proposals for extraction and exploitation of oil and natural gas in Nagaland?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) The State-wise details of Oil and Natural Gas reserves and production in 2007-08 in the following North Eastern States are given below:

State	Oil Reserves (MMT)	Oil Production 07-08 (MMT)	Gas Reserves Gas (BCM)	Gas Production 07-08 (BCM)
1	2	3	4	5
Assam	167.62	4.36	81.45	2.60

1	2	3	4	5
Arunachal Pradesh	2.81	0.10	1.13	0.03
Nagaland	2.68	*	0.12	*
Tripura	—	—	29.54	0.53

*The activities in Changpang field awarded to ONGC in Nagaland were suspended ***w.e.f.*** 1994 as per State Governments directives.

Apart from the above, no Hydrocarbon reserves have been established in other North Eastern States.

(c) There are four oil refineries in Assam *viz.* Digboi, Guwahati, Bongaigaon and Numaligarh of the capacity of 0.65, 1.0, 2.35 and 3.0 MMTPA respectively.

(d) The Operations in Changpang field in Nagaland awarded to ONGC were discontinued in May 1994 due to environmental reasons as well as State Government directions. Under New Exploration Licensing Policy two new blocks have been awarded in the State of Nagaland.

Allocation of oil and natural gas exploration block

2433. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) gave go ahead for awarding 44 oil and gas exploration blocks with Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) bagging the maximum along with its partners and first timers BHP Billiton and GVK Power;

(b) whether initiative to reduce reliance on imported energy is expected to attract 1.5 billion dollars investment; and

(c) if so, what are the other steps Government is considering to take in awarding wells to other organizations in future to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes Sir.

(c) New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) provides for level playing field for National Oil Companies, Private and Foreign Companies and bids are invited through International Competitive bidding process. Offer of acreages under NELP is a continuous process. Government Plans to offer acreages under future rounds of NELP so as to bring 80% of Indian sedimentary basinal area under exploration by end of Eleventh Plan.

PNGRB Act 2006

2434. SHRI M. V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state: